(b) A number of steps including an increase in the strength of the police personnel and in the number of vehicles, improvement in the communication systems as well gearing up of the intelligence machinery, have been with a view to check the incidence of crime.

1658. (Transferred to the 17th March, 1989).

Holidays for Judges of Supreme Court

1659. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of holidays available to Judges of Supreme Court of India in a year;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the number thereof in view of the heavy backlog of pending cases; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rationalise holidays?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) For the year 1989, the Supreme Court will have 38 Gazetted holidays besides a summer vacation of 8 weeks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Opening of Branches of Banks

1660. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms of opening of branches of banks; and

(b) how many proposals are pending before the Reserve Bank for clearance as on 1st January, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The aim of current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90 is to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and make available at least one bank office within a distance of 10 Kms. from every village. Branch expansion in urban and metropolitan areas is restrictive and new branches are allowed in unbanked/underbanked pockets of the city/town on the basis of proposals submitted by banks. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Governments and proposal submitted by banks, 5966 eligible centres upto the end of January, 1989 have been allotted to banks for opening branches in various parts of the country.

Inter-State Water Disputes

1661. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Policy has since been finalised in order to resolve the inter-State water disputes; and

(b) what is the number of inter-State water disputes pending at present and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) An Act namely, Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 exists for resolving the inter-State water disputes.

(b) Two, namely, Cauvery Waters and Ravi-Beas Waters.

Selection of beneficiaries under the Self Employment Programme

1662. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that selection of beneficiaries under the Self-